



# Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

Bulletin #94 – April 11, 2006  
SEMA's Homepage: [sema.dps.mo.gov](http://sema.dps.mo.gov)

## President Approves Disaster Assistance for March 30- April Storms

On Thursday, April 6 President Bush approved Governor Matt Blunt's request for expedited disaster assistance for the recent tornadoes. He approved Individual Assistance for Pemiscot County and Public Assistance (Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures only) for Andrew, Pettis and Pemiscot Counties. The storm system was responsible for three deaths and over 60 injuries. Over 60% of the city of Caruthersville (Pemiscot County) was destroyed. The city is working on restoring utilities, clearing streets and is working with volunteer organizations on mass care. SEMA/FEMA/local joint damage assessments are currently being conducted.

The Governor signed executive orders which authorized state agency assistance to local governments, activated the Mo National Guard, Department of Natural Resources granted burn and debris waivers, authorized all state agencies with certified peace officers to work security in Pemiscot County, and a granted waivers to trucks shipping emergency supplies to damaged communities.

## SAVE Coalition Activated for Tornado Response

At the request of Pemiscot County, SEMA activated 10 SAVE Coalition (Structural Assessment Visual Evaluation) inspectors. Over the next three days, the volunteer structural engineers, architects and building professionals will conduct tornado-damaged building inspections in Caruthersville and Pemiscot County.

The teams inspected 96 structures in City of Braggadocio, (Pemiscot County) by April 5. They completed a partial inspection of 147 structures in the City of Caruthersville, (Pemiscot County). One team was sent to Kennett (Dunklin County) to inspect approximately 50 structures. The other teams inspectors will continue inspections in the City of Caruthersville until all buildings have been inspected.

## Upcoming Area Coordinator Meetings

Here is a list of upcoming SEMA Area Coordinator meetings:

Area A:	10 a.m., June 1, 2006	Johnson County EOC, Warrensburg
Area D:	10 a.m., April 12, 2006	Taney County Airport, Hollister

## Arkansas Agriculture Declaration Impacts 3 MO Counties

Due to March 9 tornadoes and severe weather, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared an agricultural disaster declaration for Arkansas. In three Missouri counties – Butler, Dunklin and Ripley – farm producers will be able to apply for Farm Services Agency (FSA) emergency loan assistance.

## Fire Safety Schedules Training

The Missouri Division of Fire Safety has scheduled several courses and certification exams for the months of March, April and May. Please check the "calendar of events" on our website at <http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov/> for a complete list. Contact the training and certification unit staff at 573-751-2930 for additional instructions and information.

## **Conservation's TRIM Has \$260K for Tree Care Activities**

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Tree Resource Improvement & Maintenance (TRIM) will award \$260,000 in grants to public schools, communities and non-profit organizations for tree care activities. Eligible projects include tree inventory, plan development and educational tree activities, pruning, removal and tree planting.

Grant writing workshops are scheduled for 10 a.m., April 18, Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City and 9 a.m., April 19, Conservation Central Regional Offices, 1907 Hillcrest Drive, Columbia. For more information contact Forestry Field Program Supervisor Justine Gartner at (573) 522-4115 ext 3166 or [Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov).

## **March 11-13 TORNADOS UP DATE: 38 COUNTIES DECLARED FOR ASSISTANCE**

**The following 31 Counties have been declared for Individual Assistance:** Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Cedar, Cooper, Greene, Henry, Hickory, Iron, Johnson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Mississippi, Morgan, New Madrid, Newton, Perry, Pettis, Phelps, Putnam, Randolph, Saline, Scott, St. Clair, Ste. Genevieve, Taney, Vernon, Webster and Wright.

**The following 6 Counties have been declared for Individual and Public Assistance Emergency Protective Measures and Debris Removal only:** Bates, Christian, Howard, Jefferson, Monroe, and Montgomery.

**The following County has been declared for Public Assistance Emergency Protective Measures and Debris Removal only:** Washington

**The Governor has requested the following Counties to be added for Public Assistance ALL Categories:** Benton, Bollinger, Boone, Carroll, Cedar, Davies, Greene, Henry, Hickory, Iron, Johnson, Lawrence, Morgan, Perry, Pettis, Putnam, Randolph, Ray, Saline, St. Clair, Vernon, Webster, and Wright. He is asking Bates, Christian, Howard, Monroe, Montgomery and Washington be expanded to all categories.

## **WHO Publishes Bird Flu Advice for Journalists**

The World Health Organization (WHO) published a resource book in December 2005 to help journalists demystify the science behind avian influenza and other flu outbreaks. The "WHO Handbook for Journalists: Influenza Pandemic" is newly updated with information on the bird flu. The handbook helps journalists understand influenza terminology, so they are accurate and avoid causing panic.

The handbook explains flu basics, such as: the difference between bird flu and the feared pandemic influenza; the history of past flu pandemics; information on drug and vaccine treatments; the phases of a pandemic; and how a community can prepare for one. The handbook is available at [http://www.newssafety.com/stories/insi/Handbook\\_influenza\\_pandemic\\_dec05.pdf](http://www.newssafety.com/stories/insi/Handbook_influenza_pandemic_dec05.pdf)

## **MoDOT Provides Alternate Routes for I-44/Message Board**

In March, alternate route signs began lining Interstate 44 to help manage work zones. MoDOT will have 26 projects on I-44. Alternate routes are necessary to keep traffic moving and avoiding delays. Radio spots will emphasize work zone safety and encourage motorists to Drive Smart and Arrive Alive. The message will continue through September. Changeable Message Boards will be installed on interstates 44 and 70. The messages on the I-44 corridor are controlled by a Web site. The I-70 signs are controlled through digital modems.

### **MU Extension Films Storm Shelter Promos**

The University of Missouri Extension will be filming a Storm Shelter News Story about constructing storm shelters in new homes. Extension will distribute the film to all Missouri TV Stations. It is estimated the audience will be around 1.6 million viewers since this has become quite the hot topic after the recent storms.

### **Consider Taking One of These SEMA Classes...**

- Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts T-t-T, St. Charles PD, 4/24-25/06.
- CERT T-t-T Local to area D, DNR Building, Springfield 4/24-27/06
- WMD Tactical Operations Course- Technician Level, Union Ambulance Building, 5/1-5/06
- Principles of Emergency Management, West Plains, 5/23-24/06

### **Miller County Sets Volunteer Open House April 29, 2006**

Miller County EMD and Citizens Corp Coordinator Barlow Biggers will have an Open House in Tuscumbia to introduce volunteering opportunities to Miller County citizens on April 29. The Open House will feature volunteers from Miller County's Citizen Corps, CERT, LEPC and Medical Reserve Corps. The Open House will be at the former Health Department, 134 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tuscumbia.